

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2013

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We strongly urge you to consult and receive authorization from Congress before ordering the use of U.S. military force in Syria. Your responsibility to do so is prescribed in the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

While the Founders wisely gave the Office of the President the authority to act in emergencies, they foresaw the need to ensure public debate – and the active engagement of Congress – prior to committing U.S. military assets. Engaging our military in Syria when no direct threat to the United States exists and without prior congressional authorization would violate the separation of powers that is clearly delineated in the Constitution.

Mr. President, in the case of military operations in Libya you stated that authorization from Congress was not required because our military was not engaged in “hostilities.” In addition, an April 1, 2011, memorandum to you from your Office of Legal Counsel concluded:

“...President Obama could rely on his constitutional power to safeguard the national interest by directing the anticipated military operations in Libya—which were limited in their nature, scope, and duration—without prior congressional authorization.”

We view the precedent this opinion sets, where “national interest” is enough to engage in hostilities without congressional authorization, as unconstitutional. If the use of 221 Tomahawk cruise missiles, 704 Joint Direct Attack Munitions, and 42 Predator Hellfire missiles expended in Libya does not constitute “hostilities,” what does?

If you deem that military action in Syria is necessary, Congress can reconvene at your request. We stand ready to come back into session, consider the facts before us, and share the burden of decisions made regarding U.S. involvement in the quickly escalating Syrian conflict.

Sincerely,

Barry Kiger

K. Yahn

Jack R. Lipton

Steve Pan

Joe Felt

John G. Zeno

Michael McCard

Randy Harty

Arthur. Polaris

Chm Stewart

Brett Guthrie

Mr. Gahr

Long Andrew

Sam Sam

Gregg Harper

Candice S. Miller

Ted S. York

Elizabeth H. Estey

Luke Messer

Paul A. Ham

Richard Hudson

Tom Graves

Don Barletta

Doug Collins GA-7

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Mr. Brooks

Mr. [Signature]

Mr. [Signature]

Michael E. Caputo

Ray [Signature]

Ch. [Signature]

Eric [Signature]

Raul R. Labrador

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Bill Cassidy

Tony Radel

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J Rody Forke

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Gen. M. Bilalici

Beto O'Rourke.

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Steve Latta

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Sam Cobb

Mike Colburn

Tom Salmon

Colli C. D.

Mike D.

Steve R. Latta

Paul Latta

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Chris

David P. Duce

Nick Tait

Steve Divers

Pi FL

Rein Crane

David Webster FL-10

Mind Makers

Paul Zind.

Kent/Thanks

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Jim Math

John Dwyer (M)

Tim Walling

Paul C Brown

Jim Linn

Vern Buchanan

Joe Baxton

Bill Johnson

Trey Bowdy

David Schmuck

John

Tom Martin

Kerri Bowdy

Tom Mauro

Samuel B. M'Neil

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Joseph R. Pitts

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Glenn Minges

Orin B. Brink

Austin Scott

W. F. Schuchman

Thomas R.

Cluck Fleish

Maryna B. B. B. B.

Robert Pittenger

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